People and Organisations in U.N.O.

†2715. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are such people and organizations in the country which declare themselves different 'indigenous peoples' in the United Nations Organization in spite of policy of Government of India;

(b) the names of those organizations;

(c) whether they are/were officers in Centre or States; and

(d) the view of Government towards such persons and organizations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The United Nations is an inter-governmental organization which has different forum and mechanisms like the "Forum on Indigenous peoples" for participation by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). A number of non-governmental organisations from India have accreditations, which allow them to participate in such meetings. From time to time, assertions have been made by some individuals or groups of individuals claiming to be 'indigenous peoples' while participating in the meetings of such UN mechanisms. No list of such individuals or groups is maintained.

Shooting of fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy

2716. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is serious about the frequent shooting or capturing of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Army/Navy;

(b) if so, how can it continue quite often unless Government is reported to be indifferent or inactive towards this issue; and

(c) whether Government would take up the whole issue afresh from the beginning and go into the real intricacies and have a detailed dialogue with Sri Lankan Government and if necessary, to scrap some of the provisions of the pact between India and Sri Lanka on Katchatheevu enabling our fishermen to have the fishing rights in and around Katchatheevu?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government have always taken up on a priority basis the question of the safety of our fishermen with Sri Lanka. Whenever Indian fishermen along with their boats have been apprehended by Sri Lankan authorities, Government have intervened and got them released and repatriated to India. Incidents of firing on or apprehension of our fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy have taken place in Sri Lankan waters, close to their shores. While it is important for our fishermen to respect the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), especially keeping in mind the on-going operations in Sri Lanka, we have impressed on the Sri Lankan Navy to act with restraint and for our fishermen to be treated in a humane manner.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.